

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Valley Man Reveals Shocking FBI Undercover Story Ex-Informant Tells Red Dealings

By BILL CAPPS
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ROWLAND HEIGHTS — He darted across the street, glancing quickly around before sliding into the dimly-lit phone booth.

The door jerked shut behind him and a couple of ghost-like moths played with the fluorescent light above.

His hand grabbed the phone and he carefully dialed the number

of the Chicago office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"My name is Junior. I have some information," he whispered.

He had called this number many times. It was March, 1961 and his undercover work for the Federal Bureau of Investigation was nearly eight months old.

The phone clicked on the other end.

"Junior?" a deep voice asked.

... they discussed the tractor deal for the Cubans. What do you need to know?" he volunteered.

That episode is typical of Harry Dean, a Rowland Heights resident, who served as secretary of the Fair Play for Cuba organization in Chicago and at the same time worked with the FBI as an informant.

His shocking story of deception and trickery begins in 1957 when he joined a Chicago street demonstration in support of Fidel Castro's 26th of July movement against Juan Batista, the Cuban dictator.

Castro had waged a guerilla war against Batista from the mountains of Cuba since 1953. Committees of Cuban patriots began organizing support for the dubbed "George Washington of Cuba" in the United States.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Small arms flowed from the United States through the underground into the hungry arms of the bearded revolutionary. While the American government officially supported Batista, the American people supported Castro.

Dean, a Canadian-born American, was part of this weapons collection. His talents as a licensed pilot were not in demand so he did what he could for the revolution.

He began scavaging Chicago streets for clothing, canned food and bullets. His work continued well into 1958. Street demonstrations were held nearly every week now.

Dean says he still had no inkling of the chains that linked Castro with the Communist menace.

Castro marched into the joyous streets of Havana on New Year's Day, 1959. "My Cuban friends wept like small children

when the word of the revolution came through," says Dean. Just two weeks before then, Batista had said the Revolution was dead.

Dean continued his work with Dr. Joaquin Freire, the Cuban counsel in Chicago, and several other Cubans. Traveling from city to city in Illinois, the troupe explained Castro's seizure of oil lands and institution of communal farms.

About this time, Dean noticed an odd, strangely isolated man traveling with the group. His name was Albert Weisbord. He is an identified Communist who served with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, a Communist front, during the Spanish Civil War. Dean also spotted another man in the troupe. His name? Juan Del Rosario, Castro's number one man in Chicago — and also a Communist.

Soon after the success of Castro's liberation, reports and rumors began circulating in the United States about his ties with Soviet Communists. The reports were pooh-poohed in most intellectual circles and openly scorned in the Cuban revolutionary camp here in the United States.

"I wouldn't believe that the revolution was Communist," said Dean. "I just wouldn't believe it. The agent quipped Dean at length about possible ties with American magazines and newspapers.

In June of 1960, Castro's foreign minister invited Dean to visit Cuba and "see the good of the revolution." Juan A. Ortiz, the chief director of the prime minister's office and originator of the 26th of July movement, talked with Dean and gave him free reign.

Dean saw Los Indios caves, later to become shelter for medium-range Soviet missiles armed with atomic warheads.

It wasn't until later that Dean discovered the friendly international travel agent who interviewed him was a G-2 agent, a member of the Cuban secret terrorist police.

He hadn't done what he had been told."

About a week after he returned, Dean joined the Fair Play For Cuba chapter in Chicago at the instance of the Cuban counsel. A week after that he began his work for the FBI.

The turning point for Dean ironically occurred at the same meeting of the committee where he was elected secretary.

"After the meeting," Dean relates, "Florence Criley (a Detroit labor leader) gave me a box containing what she said was our leaflet and flyer propaganda from Robert Tabor, a New York newspaper. 'Communism In America' was their title."

"I walked out of the meeting, my head buzzing with questions. About a week later, John Rossen, an Illinois Communist, applied for a Fair Play charter in my name. It was then I called the FBI," Dean said.

He found out from the FBI that Fair Play For Cuba was a Communist front organization. He offered to drop out and says he was told by a Chicago agent to

"stay a while and tell us what goes on." For the next year, Dean says he attended Fair Play meetings and turned the FBI to every move the front made in advance.

He discovered the sinister "interweaving of propaganda" which placed Fair Play in activities not even remotely related to the Cuban problem. In civil rights, in domestic politics, anywhere Fair Play could exert influence, it did.

"They were beginning to work on the campuses then," said Dean. "They were stirring up hate and unrest."

Dean quit almost one year later because of personal problems. Since then he has appeared on local radio and television with a condemnation of the Communist tactics in America.

Next week, exclusively in the Valley Journal, Dean will give his views on Lee Oswald (a member of Fair Play For Cuba) and the assassination of John Kennedy, American involvement in Latin America, and gun laws in America.